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Letter dated 19 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 19 November 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 19 November 1997 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 4 November 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot deputy representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations regarding "the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic" (A/52/569-S/1997/852).

I would like to recall that charges of a similar nature, namely allegations on the so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our successive communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 29 October 1997 (A/52/544-S/1997/826, annex). Since the present Greek Cypriot allegations are no different from or more credible than those previously made, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to reiterate briefly, however, that flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The same principle applies also in the case of visits to the TRNC by vessels belonging to the Turkish navy.

The repeated allegations made by the Greek Cypriot administration demonstrate that it is not prepared to accept the present realities in the island (i.e. the existence of two separate administrations) which will constitute the framework of a bi-zonal settlement based on the sovereign equality of the two sides in Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot administration of southern Cyprus, which passes itself off as the "Government of Cyprus" and which destroyed in 1963, by force of arms, the 1960 partnership Republic, has no resemblance whatsoever to the bi-communal "Government of Cyprus" established and guaranteed by international treaties. The so-called "Government of Cyprus" is no other than the Greek Cypriot administration whose jurisdiction extends only over the area of the island under Greek Cypriot control. It is high time that third parties treat the two sides in Cyprus equally and encourage them to develop positive relations based on mutual recognition. The efforts of the Greek Cypriot side in the international arena to provide a smokescreen for its lack of political will to reach a negotiated settlement and its reckless policy of escalation and tension in the island should no longer be condoned by the community of nations.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus